

MINUTES  
OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
EDINA HUMAN RIGHTS & RELATIONS COMMISSION  
March 19, 2013  
7:00 PM

**I.      *CALL TO ORDER***

Chair Bigbee called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**II.     *ROLLCALL***

Answering roll call were Commissioners Cashmore, Davis, Lagerstrom, Seidman, Chair Bigbee Newell, and Student Member Stang. Staff present: Lisa Schaefer, Staff Liaison and Ari Klugman, City Manager Intern.

**III.    *MEETING AGENDA APPROVED***

**Motion was made by Commissioner Cashmore to approve the meeting agenda of the March 19, 2013 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Seidman.**

Ayes: Bigbee, Cashmore, Davis, Lagerstrom and Seidman.  
Motion carried.

**IV.     *CONSENT AGENDA ADOPTED***

IV. A. February 26, 2013 Minutes

**Motion was made by Commissioner Seidman and seconded by Commissioner Cashmore to approve the consent agenda.**

Ayes: Bigbee, Cashmore, Davis, Lagerstrom and Seidman.  
Motion carried.

**V.      *COMMUNITY COMMENT***

There were no community comments.

**VI.     *REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS***

Commissioner Stanton and Student Member Mohtadi entered at 7:05 pm. Commissioner Newell entered at 7:12 pm.

**A. Community Outreach**

**i. Fartun Weli**

Chair Bigbee introduced Fartun Weli from Isuroom and reminded the Commission she has previously spoken to the Commission several months ago. Fartun Weli briefly introduced herself and why she is here presenting to the Commission. She presented her proposal to the Commission to help identify needs and Somali Community leaders in Edina.

Commissioner Seidman asked about the budget proposal and clarified that it did not include the Community Event as part of the proposal. Commissioner Seidman then asked if there are other sponsors that could be part of the process.

Weli stated she has worked on all budgets and knows a lot of people who might be able to donate food.

Chair Bigbee thanked Fartun Weli and Weli left the meeting at 7:25 pm.

Commissioner Stanton asked about the budget available for the event.

City Manager Intern Klugman stated she believes there was \$1,500 put in for Community Outreach.

Chair Bigbee stated rather than focusing on the budget, he wanted to talk about what direction the Commission wants to go.

## ii. Community Listening Sessions

Chair Bigbee asked if he could include the next item as part of the conversation about the next step for Community Outreach. He shared this information is from the Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights. They are doing a project to get a feel for how welcoming Minnesota is for immigrant communities. Community Listening Sessions are part of the One Voice Minnesota project. They would provide materials, gather information and be a welcoming presence at the event. There were members of the Richfield and Eden Prairie Human Rights Commission present and they talked about possibly cohosting a listening session or training. He stated this is really preliminary, but could help simplify or reduce some of what Fartun Weli is proposing.

Commissioner Stanton asked about the costs, and Chair Bigbee stated they do not charge. They would like a report to help them measure how welcoming Minnesota is.

Commissioner Stanton stated he would not mind doing a dual track. He emphasized the Commission has tried for a long time to make a contact and progress in this area, and he doesn't want to lose that opportunity. Commissioner Stanton stated he feels we should ask the Council for funds.

Commissioner Cashmore stated the money doesn't necessarily have to be city funds; the Commission could talk to the Edina Community Foundation or approach other non-profits within the community to help. He doesn't know if the first option should be to ask the Council.

Commissioner Seidman agrees with both and explained that she asked Fartun Weli about sponsorship for this reason.

Commissioner Newell stated the one important distinction is that we would be putting the Somali Community Members in the productive role and giving them the opportunity for leadership.

Chair Bigbee stated he believed active participation from the HRRC would be critical. He also stated it is important to keep in mind that we have Somali's in our community but we also have other community groups in Edina.

Commissioner Cashmore stated he thinks there needs to be Commission subcommittee or workgroup.

Chair Bigbee asked if there were members of the Commission that would like to help lead this initiative.

Commissioner Cashmore volunteered to chair the subcommittee and Commissioner Davis volunteered to help lead the initiative.

Chair Bigbee asked staff if they could give a little information of the work group contact information. City Manager Intern Klugman shared there were six individuals who expressed an interest in serving on the HRRC who were not selected for any board or commission, who could be contacted to help out with a work group.

Chair Bigbee asked to have their info shared with him.

Chair Bigbee is going to contact the advocates and get further information about the One Voice Minnesota project and include other commissions like Park Board and the Health committee.

#### B. Tom Oye Award Selection

Commissioner Seidman briefly reviewed the nominations and the process that has occurred this year for the Tom Oye Award and opened the floor for nominations.

**Commissioner Cashmore nominated Alec Fisher to be the 2013 Tom Oye Award recipient. Commissioner Stanton seconded the motion.**

**Ayes: Bigbee, Cashmore, Lagerstrom, Newell, Seidman and Stanton.**

**Nays: Davis**

**Motion carried.**

#### C. City Ordinance Revision- Gender Expression

**Commissioner Lagerstrom made a motion to recommend to the City Council to add gender expression to policy statement of Section 1501 of the City Code. Commissioner Stanton seconded the motion.**

**Ayes: Bigbee, Cashmore, Davis, Lagerstrom, Newell, Seidman and Stanton.**

**Motion carried.**

City Manager Intern shared she had checked with the City Attorney and the City would not be required to make any changes to the restroom.

Chair Bigbee checked with the police chief and he stated we should make sure we are in accordance with state statutes so we can enforce laws and the policy in schools may be different.

#### D. General Work Plan updates

- i. Monitor Domestic Partner Legislation and the City Ordinance.

Commissioner Stanton gave an update on domestic partner legislation and stated there is a proposed marriage equality bill. There is legislation for the domestic partner benefits if the marriage bill does not pass.

- ii. Anti-bullying event and education- Edina Reads

Student Member Stang said she was working to put up posters at school.

Commissioner Cashmore asked for the Edina Reads event to be publicized on City Extra.

iii. Days of Remembrance

Commissioner Cashmore and Seidman shared they will be setting up a display at City Hall for the Days of Remembrance and asked for the event to be posted on the front sign and a press release to be written.

iv. Domestic Violence

Chair Bigbee asked us to think about where Domestic Violence is going to fall in our work plan, the commission will talk about it more next month.

E. Resource File

Chair Bigbee introduced the commission to the resource file and shared some of its contents. The resource file will be available at City Hall for Commissioners to use.

F. Other

i. EBT SNAP

Chair Bigbee informed the Commission that the do.town was working on getting Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Electronic Benefit Transfers to be available at the Farmer's Market. Tom Shirley, the General Manager of Centennial Lakes is working on the initiative.

ii. 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Chair Bigbee shared 2013 is the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary and wanted to know if the Commission wanted to form a workgroup for the initiative. Commissioner Lagerstrom volunteered to help lead and Student Members Stang and Mohtadi will also work on the project.

iii. Reminder Work Session May 7<sup>th</sup> 5:30-7 pm

Chair Bigbee reminded the Commission the work session is planned with the Council on May 7<sup>th</sup> from 5:30- 7pm. A major portion of the next meeting will be on planning the upcoming event.

## **VII. CORRESPONDENCE AND PETITIONS**

City Manager Intern will draft an email response to the correspondence the Commission received regarding human trafficking and ask her for further contact information.

## **VIII. CHAIR AND COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS**

Chair Bigbee reminded the Commission that next month's meeting will start at 6 pm and include boxed dinners.

IX. STAFF COMMENTS

There were none.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business on the Commission Agenda, **Commissioner Stanton moved and Commissioner Seidman seconded adjournment of the meeting.**

**Ayes: Bigbee, Cashmore, Davis, Lagerstrom, Newell, Seidman and Stanton.  
Motion carried.**

Chair Bigbee declared the meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Minutes approved by HRRC, April 23, 2013

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Ari Klugman, City Manager Intern

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Arnie Bigbee, HRRC Chair